

Time Line: American Indians in North Carolina

From *Tar Heel Junior Historian* 45:1 (fall 2005).

Circa 40,000–15,000 BC: People migrate to North America from Asia at irregular intervals by way of the Bering Land Bridge.

10,000–8,000 BC: Paleo-Indian-period American Indians are nomadic and hunt large animals for food. They also eat small game and wild plants. They leave behind little evidence in what is now North Carolina.

8,000–1,000 BC: Archaic-period Indians move from big-game hunting to small-game hunting, fishing, and collecting wild plants. They change their patterns of living because of North America's changing climate.

Circa 3,000 BC: American Indians begin to use certain sites for permanent habitation, develop interregional trade, and increase significantly in population.

1,000 BC–AD 1600: In an egalitarian, clan-based society, Woodland-culture American Indians settle in permanent locations, usually beside streams, and practice a mixed subsistence lifestyle of hunting, gathering, and some agriculture. Two main crops, corn and gourds, become staples. Woodland Indians create cord- and fabric-marked pottery and develop elaborate funeral procedures to honor their dead.

AD 1000–1600: Mississippian-culture Indians create large political units called chiefdoms, uniting people under stronger leadership than the Woodland cultures do. Towns become larger and last longer. Indians eat a corn-dependent diet and begin creating more sophisticated pottery (including burnishing and stamping). Flat-topped, pyramidal mounds serve as foundations for temples, mortuaries, chiefs' homes, and other important structures. Towns are usually built by streams and surrounded by defensive structures. The culture is limited in North Carolina.

1492: Italian explorer Christopher Columbus leads expeditions for Spain to seek new trade routes in the western Atlantic Ocean. This results in the first European contact with Native peoples in the Caribbean and South America, creating a continuing and devastating impact on their cultures.

At the time of the beginning of Contact, many groups of Indians live in the area now called North Carolina. These include the Chowanoke, Croatoan, Hatteras, Moratoc, Secotan, Weapemoc, Machapunga, Pamlico, Coree, Neusiok, Tuscarora, Meherrin, Cherokee, Cape Fear, Catawba, Shakori, Sissipahaw, Sugeree, Waccamaw (Woccon), Waxhaw, Cheraw, Eno, Keyauwee, Occaneechi, Saponi, and Tutelo. The tribes can be grouped into three language families: Iroquoian, Siouan, and Algonquian. By the mid-

1700s, some tribes disappear for reasons including disease and fighting brought on by Europeans.

1524: A Spanish expedition commissioned by Lucas Vásques de Ayllón meets American Indians in a place the Indians call Chicora, between the Cape Fear and Santee rivers in what is now North Carolina. A Spanish colony called Rio Jordan is established but abandoned within a few years. Also during this time, Italian Giovanni da Verrazzano meets Indians in the Cape Fear and Outer Banks regions.

1540: A Spanish expedition led by Hernando de Soto explores western portions of present-day North Carolina, seeking gold. De Soto and his men visit Indian communities, probably introducing smallpox and other diseases.

1566: In the summer, Spaniard Pedro de Coronas explores the Currituck River region.

1566–1567: Spanish explorer Juan Pardo, seeking gold, leads an expedition through what is now western North Carolina. Pardo is well-received by the Cherokee, and visits the Catawba, Wateree, and Saxapahaw as well.

1584: Sir Walter Raleigh of England sends explorers Philip Amadas and Arthur Barlowe to North America in search of colony sites. At Roanoke Island, the explorers meet Indian chief Wingina and find the place excellent for settlement. They return to England with Manteo and Wanchese, Indians who learn English and are used to create publicity for Raleigh's colony.

1585: The first English settlement is established at Roanoke Island, with Ralph Lane appointed governor. Roanoke Indians, some of whom initially welcome the colonists, begin to see them as a drain on resources.

1586: Ralph Lane leads an expedition into the interior of the state to seek gold and other precious metals. The Roanoke warn inland tribes about the colonists, but Lane makes an alliance with the Chowanoke, who hope to use the English against their enemies, the Tuscarora. Chief Wingina plots to get rid of the settlers. Lane has him killed, breaking an uneasy peace.

Sir Francis Drake arrives at Roanoke Island and takes most of the colonists back to England. He leaves an exploring party and possibly Africans and South American Indians captured from the Spanish. A relief ship arrives at Roanoke Island and, finding no colonists, leaves fifteen men to hold the area for England.

1587: Raleigh sends explorer and artist John White to Roanoke Island as leader of a new group of settlers, in the second English try at settling there. The colonists find the bones of the men left behind in 1586. White enlists the help of Manteo to build relationships with the Roanoke and Croatoan Indians. Most of the Native peoples decide to let the colonists fend for themselves.

White leaves Roanoke Island for England to get supplies. With England and Spain at war, he cannot return right away.

1590: White finally returns to Roanoke Island to find the colony deserted, with little evidence of what happened. He attempts to sail to Croatoan Island in hopes of finding some of the colonists, but bad weather prevents him from reaching the island, and he never returns. The Roanoke settlement is known afterward as the Lost Colony.

1608: In what is now Virginia, Jamestown leader John Smith sends expeditions to the Roanoke Island area for information about the Lost Colony. His men find nothing conclusive.

1611: Because of their rivalry with England, the Spanish government develops an alliance with the Tuscarora tribe to monitor the Jamestown colony.

1650: White settlers begin to move into Indian lands along the coastal sounds and rivers.

1653: Virginia legislator Francis Yearly hires fur trader Nathaniel Batts to explore the Albemarle Sound region for possible settlement. Yearly agrees to buy land from the Roanoke Indians but dies before his settlement is established. Batts settles along the Chowan River in a building that serves as his home and a trading post. He trades with local Indians and becomes the area's first permanent white settler.

1661: On March 1, King Kilcocanen of the Yeopim grants land on the Albemarle Sound in southern Perquimans County to George Durant, who later holds several state offices, in the earliest grant on record in the colony.

1675: Chowanoke Indians attack white settlements in what is now northeastern North Carolina. The uprising is quelled with the "loss of many men."

1690s: Cherokee traders establish trade agreements with the English at Charles Towne (now Charleston, South Carolina).

1700: The Chowanoke and Weapemeoc peoples have gradually abandoned their lands in the Albemarle region. Some have become slaves or indentured servants. Others have migrated southwest to join the Tuscarora. There are only about 500 Indians left in the region. Explorers of the 1580s found the Chowanoke, occupying a large settlement on the west side of the Chowan River in the area of present-day Bertie and Hertford counties, to be well-established and friendly. But by about 1820, the tribe apparently was extinct.

An escaped slave serves as an architect in the construction of a large Tuscarora fort near the Neuse River.

1709: Surveyor John Lawson, who began a thousand-mile journey through the colony in late 1700, publishes *A New Voyage to Carolina*. The book describes flora and fauna and groups of Indians he visited over a decade. Lawson also publishes a map.

1710: Baron Christoph von Graffenried, a leader of Swiss and German Protestants, starts a colony in Bath County. The town, New Bern, is founded at the junction of the Trent and Neuse rivers, displacing an Indian town named Chattoka.

June 8: Tuscarora on the Roanoke and Tar-Pamlico rivers send a petition to the government of Pennsylvania protesting the seizure of their lands and enslavement of their people by Carolina settlers.

1711: In September, Tuscarora capture John Lawson, Baron von Graffenried, and two African slaves. After arguing with the chief, Cor Tom, Lawson is executed. The others are spared.

Later in the month, the Tuscarora War opens when Catechna Creek Tuscarora begin attacking colonial settlements near New Bern and Bath. Tuscarora, Neuse, Bear River, Machapunga, and other Indians kill more than 130 whites. Virginia refuses to send troops to help its neighbor colony but allocates £1,000 for aid in October.

1711–1715: In a series of uprisings, Tuscarora attempt to drive away white settlers, nearly destroying the settlements between the Neuse and Pamlico rivers. The tribe is upset over the practices of white traders, the capture and enslavement of Indians by whites, and the continuing encroachment of settlers onto their hunting grounds. Other tribes side with the whites.

1712: South Carolina sends help to her sister colony in January. John Barnwell, a member of that state's Assembly, leads about thirty whites and 500 "friendly" Indians, mostly Yamassee, to fight the Tuscarora. A battle takes place at Narhantes, a Tuscarora fort on the Neuse River. Barnwell's troops win but are surprised that many of the fiercest Tuscarora warriors are women, who do not surrender "until most of them are put to the sword."

In April, Barnwell's force, joined by 250 North Carolina militiamen, attacks the Tuscarora at Fort Hancock on Catechna Creek. After 10 days of battle, the Tuscarora sign a truce, agreeing to stop the war. That summer, the tribe rises again to fight the Yamassee, who, unsatisfied with their plunder during earlier battles, remain in the area looting and pillaging. The Tuscarora also fight against the continued expansion of white settlement.

1713: Another force from South Carolina, consisting of 900 Indians and thirty-three whites, on March 20 begins a three-day siege on the Tuscarora stronghold of Fort Neoheroka. Some 950 Tuscarora are killed, or captured and sold into slavery, effectively defeating the tribe and opening the interior of the colony to white settlement. Although a few renegades fight on until 1715, most surviving Tuscarora by 1820 will migrate to New York to join the Iroquois League as its sixth and smallest nation.

1715: A treaty with remaining Tuscarora is signed. They are placed on a reservation along the Pamlico River. The Coree and Machapunga Indians, Tuscarora allies, settle in

Hyde County near Lake Mattamuskeet. The land will be granted to them in 1727, and a reservation will be established.

The General Assembly enacts a law denying blacks and Indians the right to vote, which the king will repeal in 1737. Some free blacks continue to vote until disenfranchisement in 1835.

1717: The few Tuscarora remaining in the colony, led by Chief Tom Blount, are granted land on the Roanoke River in Bertie County, near present-day Quitsna. They had left their reservation on the Pamlico River because of raids by tribes from the south.

1721: The Cherokee give up land northwest of Charleston to the colony of South Carolina, the first of many land cessions the tribe makes to Europeans. The treaty also regulates trade and sets a boundary between the tribe and European settlers.

1726–1739: The Cheraw (Saura) Indians incorporate with the Catawba living near present-day Charlotte.

1730: Cherokee leaders visit London and confer with the king. They pledge friendship to the English and agree to return runaway slaves and to trade exclusively with the British.

1736: The North Carolina colony establishes an Indian Trade Commission to regulate trade with Native peoples.

1738–1739: A smallpox epidemic decimates the Indian population in North Carolina, especially in the east. The epidemic also decreases the number of Cherokee by 50 percent.

1740: Waxhaw Indians, decimated by smallpox, abandon their lands in present-day Union County and join the Catawba. The vacated lands are taken over by German, English, Scottish, and Welsh immigrants.

1750s: Armed conflicts arise between the Cherokee and colonists, who continue to expand areas of settlement farther into the colony's west.

1754: Governor Arthur Dobbs receives a report from a Bladen County agent of about fifty Indian families living along Drowning Creek (present-day Lumber River). The communication also reports the shooting of a surveyor who entered the area "to view vacant lands." This is the first written account of the tribe from which the modern-day Lumbee descended.

1754–1763: England and France fight the French and Indian War all along the frontier of North America. North Carolina troops serve both in the colony and in other colonies. The French encourage Indians in deadly raids against British colonies.

1755: The Indian population in eastern North Carolina is estimated at around 356. Most of these are Tuscarora who have not moved north.

The colonial governor approves a proposal to establish an Indian academy in present-day Sampson County.

1758: North Carolina militia and Cherokee help the British military in campaigns against the French and Shawnee Indians, including in Virginia. The Cherokee decide to change sides after ill treatment by the English, and they return home, where they eventually attack North Carolina colonists.

1759: The French and Indian War intensifies as Cherokee raid the western Piedmont. Refugees crowd into a fort built by Moravians at Bethabara. Typhus kills many people there. The same year, another smallpox epidemic devastates the Catawba, reducing the tribe by half.

1760: An act of assembly permits North Carolinians serving against Indian allies of the French to enslave captives.

In February, Cherokee attack Fort Dobbs—built near the Yadkin River north of present-day Statesville as a refuge for settlers and “friendly” Indians—and white settlements near Bethabara and along the Yadkin and Dan rivers. In June an army of British regulars and American militia led by Colonel Archibald Montgomerie destroys Cherokee villages and saves the Fort Prince George garrison in South Carolina but is defeated by the Cherokee at Echoe. Two months later, Cherokee capture Fort Loudoun (in present-day Tennessee) and massacre the garrison.

1761: An army of British regulars, American militia, and Catawba and Chickasaw Indians led by Colonel James Grant routs the Cherokee, in June destroying fifteen villages, burning stored grain, and ripping up fields, ending Cherokee resistance. The tribe signs a treaty in December to end its war with the colonists.

1763: English King George III issues a proclamation that defines the western edge of settlement. This “proclamation line” through western North Carolina is meant to separate Indians and colonists.

The Treaty of Paris ends the Seven Years’ War in Europe and the French and Indian War in North America.

1775: The Treaty of Sycamore Shoals (now Elizabethton, Tennessee), between Richard Henderson of the Transylvania Company and the Cherokee people, is signed. It opens for settlement the area from the Ohio River south to the Watauga settlement. The Shawnee, who inhabit the lands, refuse to accept the terms of the treaty.

1747–1776: The Coharie, Catawba, and ancestors of the Lumbee join the Patriot cause.

1776: Starting in May, Cherokee village councils discuss going to war against the American colonists. The Cherokee decide to fight to protect the existence of their society, ignoring the consequences and the overwhelming odds against them. The tribe raids white settlements in Watauga County and South Carolina in June. The British have promised to protect the tribe from encroachments by colonial borders.

Starting in late July, General Griffith Rutherford with 2,400 men invades Cherokee country, destroying thirty-two towns and villages. He is joined by Colonel Andrew Williamson with South Carolina troops and Colonel William Christian with Virginians. This expedition breaks the power of the Cherokee and forces them to sue for peace.

1777: By the Treaty of Long Island of Holston, signed July 20, the Cherokee cede territory east of the Blue Ridge Mountains and along the Watauga, Nolichucky, Upper Holston, and New rivers (an area east of present-day Kingsport and Greenville, Tennessee).

1783: Despite the boundary at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains set by the treaty of 1777, the assembly declares lands open for settlement as far west as the Pigeon River.

1791: The Cherokee sign the Treaty of Holston, by which they cede a hundred-mile tract of land west of Asheville in exchange for goods and an annuity of \$1,000.

1798: By the Treaty of Tellico, the Cherokee cede a triangular area with its points near Indian Gap, east of present-day Brevard, and southeast of Asheville.

1808: The Cherokee, who already have a national council, establish a law code and “Light Horse Guards” to maintain law and order. Two years later, they abolish clan revenge as a mechanism for social control.

1814: Cherokee aid General Andrew Jackson in defeating the Creek Indians in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in Alabama on March 27. Afterward, Jackson tells Chief Junaluska: “As long as the sun shines and the grass grows there shall be friendship between us, and the feet of the Cherokee shall be toward the East.” As president, Jackson later plays a major role in the effort to move the tribe and others west.

1817: The Cherokee give up land in exchange for land on the Arkansas River. Two thousand tribe members move west.

1819: The Cherokee agree to a treaty by which a large amount of their land in present-day Henderson, Transylvania, and Jackson counties is ceded to the federal government. Cherokee are allowed to receive land grants as individuals and can resell the land to white settlers to earn money.

1820: The Cherokee establish a judicial administration and eight judicial districts.

1821: Sequoyah completes his work establishing the Cherokee syllabary, making the tribe the only group of American Indians with a written language.

1822: The Cherokee National Supreme Court is established.

1827: The Cherokee approve a new tribal constitution.

1828: The first edition of the Cherokee Phoenix, a newspaper printed in Cherokee and English, is released.

The state sells the Bertie County tract of land called Indian Woods, set aside for Tuscarora after the war of 1711–1713.

1830: President Andrew Jackson signs the federal Indian Removal Act, calling for Indians to be forced from their homes to lands west of the Mississippi River.

The first independent church in the High Plains Indian Community (Sappony tribe) is formed.

1832: The Supreme Court rules that the Cherokee Nation constitutes a sovereign nation within the state of Georgia, subject only to federal law. The ruling remains the basis for Indian tribal sovereignty.

1835: North Carolina's state constitution is extensively revised, with voter-approved amendments that provide for the direct election of the governor and more democratic representation in the legislature. However, new laws take voting rights from American Indians and free blacks.

A small, unauthorized group of Cherokee men signs the Cherokee Removal Treaty in New Echota, Georgia. The Cherokee protest the treaty. Chief John Ross collects more than 15,000 signatures, representing nearly the entire Cherokee population, on a petition asking the United States Senate to withhold ratification. In 1836, the Senate approves the treaty by one vote.

1838–1839: Approximately 17,000 Cherokee are forcibly removed from the state to the Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma). This event becomes known as the Trail of Tears. An estimated 4,000 Cherokee die during the 1,200-mile trek, including Chief Ross's wife Quatie. A few hundred members of the tribe refuse to be rounded up and transported. They hide in the mountains and evade federal soldiers. Eventually, a deal is struck between the army and the remaining Cherokee. One of the leaders, Tsali, agrees to surrender himself to General Winfield Scott to be shot if the army will allow the rest of his people to stay in North Carolina legally. The federal government eventually establishes a reservation for what becomes the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

1839: Yonaguska, eighty-year-old chief of the Eastern Band, dies. His adopted white son, William Holland Thomas, becomes chief and pushes for reservation land.

1840: The General Assembly passes a law prohibiting nonwhites from owning or carrying weapons without a license.

1842: Cherokee who avoided forced removal and remain in North Carolina are given citizenship. In 1848 Congress grants them a small amount of money to use for the purchase of land.

1859: The Coharie community establishes subscription schools for American Indian children.

1861–1865: Approximately 42,000 North Carolinians lose their lives in the Civil War. American Indians have varying experiences. Many Cherokee support the Confederacy. Thomas's Legion, a well-known fighting unit, includes two companies of Cherokee soldiers. The Lumbee in eastern North Carolina are forced to work on Confederate fortifications near Wilmington, such as Fort Fisher. Many flee and form groups to resist impressment by the army. Henry Berry Lowry leads one such band, which continues to resist the actions of the Home Guard—a group supporting the Confederacy and maintaining “law and order”—and white domination long after the war's end.

1865: The March 3 killings of Allen and William Lowry, the father and brother of Henry Berry Lowry and members of a prominent Indian family, spark what becomes known as the Lowry War in Robeson County.

1865–1874: The Lowry band employs guerrilla tactics in its war against Robeson County's power structure, robbing prominent citizens and killing law enforcement officers. Indians, blacks, and poor whites unite in support of the group. Henry Berry Lowry, hiding in nearby swamps, becomes known as something of a Robin Hood: a folk hero to some and a terrorizing villain to others.

1868: In the wake of Reconstruction, the new North Carolina constitution gives adult males the right to vote. The General Assembly is required to provide “for a general and uniform system” of free schools for children ages six through twenty-one. North Carolina ratifies the 14th Amendment, which grants citizenship “to all persons born or naturalized in the United States.”

1870: Under a tribal government, members of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee elect a chief and write a constitution.

1872: Henry Berry Lowry vanishes in February, leading to years of speculation about his death. In 1874, after another of his brothers dies at the hands of bounty hunters, the Lowry War ends.

1875: The state constitution is changed, establishing separate schools for different races and forbidding racial intermarriage. The latter ban stands until 1977.

1882–early 1900s: Three schools open in Halifax and Warren counties to serve Haliwa-Saponi children.

1885: The state recognizes the Croatan Indians, now known as the Lumbee, as an official American Indian tribe on February 10. With recognition come separate schools.

1887: Croatan Normal School for Indians opens in Pembroke, Robeson County. W. L. Moore (Waccamaw-Siouan) serves as the first principal and teacher. The school will evolve into UNC-Pembroke. Its first high school diplomas are awarded in 1905.

1888: Hamilton McMillan publishes Sir Walter's Lost Colony, which claims that the Lumbee descended from the ill-fated Roanoke Island settlers.

Fifty-four Croatan Indians in Robeson County petition the federal government, requesting money for schools.

The Indians of Person County build a school on land donated by Green Martin; another school will be built within a few years.

1889: The Eastern Band of Cherokee, which gained federal recognition in 1868, is incorporated and recognized under North Carolina law. In 1893 the federal government will open a Cherokee boarding school.

1900: In an effort to take away the Cherokee's right to vote, some local elections officials take advantage of an 1895 federal court ruling that they are wards of the government. Also this year, the "Suffrage Amendment" to the state constitution institutes a literacy requirement for voting. It includes a grandfather clause that allows illiterate white men to vote but effectively disenfranchises most men of color.

1904: Diottrion W. and Mary Epps deed land for a school for Indians in Person County, North Carolina, and in southern Virginia. The school will be rebuilt in 1925 by Person County, North Carolina, and Halifax County, Virginia.

1910: Shiloh Indian School is established in Dismal Township, Sampson County, to serve Coharie children.

1911: A state law changes the name of the Croatan Indians to the Indians of Robeson County.

The Coharie receive state recognition, but this recognition is rescinded two years later.

The state recognizes a group of Indians descended from the Saponi, Tutelo, and Occaneechi tribes as the Indians of Person County. This recognition will be rescinded in the 1970s.

New Bethel Indian School opens in New Bethel Township, Sampson County, to serve Coharie children. High Plains Indian School opens in Person County for Sappony children.

1913: The Indians of Robeson County are renamed Cherokee Indians of Robeson County.

1914: The Cherokee in western North Carolina hold the first Cherokee Fall Fair to encourage tourism in their region.

1917: Eastern Carolina Indian School is established in Herring Township, Sampson County. The school operates until desegregation in 1965, eventually serving children in grades 1–12.

1919: Local officials deny voter registration to Cherokee veterans of World War I. The next year, when the 19th Amendment gives women nationwide the right to vote, Cherokee women are turned away by local officials when they try to register.

1924: Federal law declares all Indians to be citizens; application varies a bit by state.

1925: Cherokee lands are placed in trust status with the federal government. Five years later, federal law grants citizenship to Cherokee in the state.

1934: Wide Awake Indian School opens in the Waccamaw-Siouan community of Buckhead in Bladen County, with Welton Lowry, a Lumbee, as teacher. Wide Awake, serving grades 1–8, follows the tradition of Doe Head School, founded in 1885; Long Boy School, founded in 1901; and St. Mark’s School, founded in 1920. It closes in 1952.

1935: A federal memorandum allows Indians in Robeson County to organize under the Wheeler-Howard Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. To receive recognition, individuals must be at least one-half Indian.

1938: Only twenty-two of 209 Robeson County Indians qualify for recognition under the Wheeler-Howard Act. Qualification is based on “race” testing to determine a person’s Indian blood.

1940: Indian Normal School (now UNC-Pembroke) in Robeson County grants its first college degree. In 1941, the General Assembly renames it Pembroke State College for Indians.

North Carolina establishes a poll tax, which can be used to limit minority voting.

1942: East Carolina Indian School in Sampson County admits Indian students from seven counties. Families in the Coharie community board them. The school will close in 1965.

1945: Calvary Baptist Church replaces Mayo Chapel, founded in 1878, in the High Plains Indian Community (Sappony).

1946: Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, a Cherokee crafts cooperative, forms.

Cherokee veterans of World War II begin registering to vote.

1947: The first Indian mayor of the town of Pembroke is elected. Previously the governor appointed the mayors, all of whom were non-Indian.

1950: The Cherokee Historical Association begins producing the outdoor drama Unto These Hills.

1952–1954: Waccamaw Indian School opens in Columbus County. The school will close in 1969 following desegregation.

1953: The State of North Carolina recognizes the Lumbee (formerly called the Cherokee Indians of Robeson County).

1954: The Supreme Court's ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* [Kansas] starts the process of school desegregation nationwide.

1955: The Hickory Hill School in the Waccamaw-Siouan Indian community of St. James, Columbus County, closes after operating since at least 1927.

1956: Congress passes the Lumbee Bill. It recognizes the Lumbee as an Indian tribe but denies them services from the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs.

1957: The Haliwa School opens in Warren County, serving children in grades 1–12. The school is tribally controlled and state-recognized under the county school system. It closes in 1969 as a result of desegregation.

Congress begins passing a series of laws to ensure that everyone can exercise their right to vote (culminating in the 1965 Voting Rights Act). In 1964 the poll tax will be outlawed and a new Civil Rights Act will outlaw discrimination in employment, public facilities, and education.

1958: A large group of Lumbee, angered by racist agitation and threats of cross burnings, descend on a Ku Klux Klan rally January 18 near Maxton, scattering the Klan. Two Klan members are later indicted on charges of incitement to riot.

1962: English E. Jones becomes the first Lumbee president of Pembroke State College (now UNC-Pembroke).

1965: The Haliwa-Saponi tribe receives state recognition.

1970: The General Assembly, in removing obsolete laws from the books, inadvertently rescinds the state recognition of the Indians of Person County.

1971: The state recognizes the Coharie and Waccamaw-Siouan tribes.

On July 2 the General Assembly establishes the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs.

The Lumbee Guaranty Bank is established in Pembroke on December 22. It is the first bank in the United States owned and operated by American Indians.

1972: The Department of American Indian Studies at Pembroke State University (now UNC-Pembroke) begins offering courses. The university becomes part of the new sixteen-campus UNC system.

The Carolina Indian Voice, an American Indian-owned newspaper, begins operation.

In September, Horace Locklear, a Lumbee, becomes the first Indian to pass the State Bar exam and practice law in North Carolina.

Tuscarora from Robeson County join other American Indians from across the nation in occupying the Bureau of Indian Affairs building in Washington, D.C., during the Trail of Broken Treaties protest in October. The Tuscarora steal 7,200 pounds of records and take them to Robeson County.

1973: Old Main, the oldest building on the campus of Pembroke State University (now UNC-Pembroke), is gutted by fire March 18. The building is rebuilt.

Henry Ward Oxendine, a Lumbee from Robeson County, becomes the first American Indian to serve in North Carolina's General Assembly.

1975: The Guilford Native American Association incorporates in Greensboro.

1976: The Metrolina Native American Association incorporates in Charlotte in January.

The Waccamaw-Siouan tribe begins governing by tribal council and tribal chief.

The outdoor drama Strike at the Wind, the story of Lumbee legend Henry Berry Lowry, opens in Robeson County.

1979: The American Indian Religious Freedom Act guarantees religious freedom to Indians nationwide, including the right to hold traditional ceremonies.

1980: Governor James B. Hunt Jr. proclaims Indian Heritage Week, which later becomes a monthlong observance.

1981: The General Assembly passes new laws regarding archaeological and skeletal remains that have application to American Indian artifacts.

1986: The state recognizes the Meherrin tribe.

1988: Two American Indians, Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs, hold seventeen people hostage in the offices of the Robesonian newspaper in Lumberton on February 1. The two demand to speak with Governor Jim Martin, hoping to publicize corruption and drug dealing within Robeson County law enforcement. They will be acquitted of federal charges but convicted on state ones.

1997: The General Assembly passes a bill restoring state recognition, rescinded in the 1970s, to the Indians of Person County. By statute, the tribe is now known as the Sappony.

Harrah's Cherokee Casino opens on Qualla Boundary, with 175,000 square feet of space and 1,800 video gambling machines.

2000: The N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs recognizes the Triangle Native American Society.

Lorna McNeill, a Lumbee, is crowned Miss North Carolina while a senior at UNC-Pembroke.

The Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School in Hollister opens as part of the State Board of Education's charter school program, with sixty-nine students in grades K–5 and Indian studies in its curriculum.

2002: The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation receives state recognition as a tribe.

Fine in the World: Lumbee Language in Time and Place is published.

2005: Governor Mike Easley signs a bill designating UNC- Pembroke as North Carolina's Historically American Indian University.